Friends Bulletin

PACIFIC YEARLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

VOL. 33, NO. 5 FEBRUARY, 1965

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE: Saturday, March 20, 1965, 8:30 a.m.

PLACE: San Francisco Friends Meeting
2160 Lake Street
San Francisco, California

HOSPITALITY ARRANGEMENTS: Madge Seaver
1191 Stanyan Street
San Francisco, California 94117
Telephone: LO 4-1375

ITEMS OF BUSINESS
- Reports from Committee Chairmen
- Reports from Yearly Meeting Officers
- Report from 1965 Arrangements Committee
- Preparation of schedule and agenda for 1965 PYM session
- Report from Young Friends
- Appointment of 1966 and 1967 Arrangements Committees
- Concerns from regional meetings
- Consideration of 1964 PYM Minute 18: "Meeting referred the question of travel expenses of Yearly Meeting representatives to national meetings of affiliated Friends groups to the Executive Committee for a policy statement for the guidance of the Finance Committee."

PLEASE SEND: summaries, comments, questions, ideas, proposals on any of the above items to the Clerk by March 5, 1965.

— *EDWIN C. MORGENROTH, Clerk*

SYMBOLS

This morning I watched on TV, Ruth St. Dennis and Ted Shawn, two dancers who have made people aware through many years of the spirituality that the body can convey and symbolize. Her incense dance symbolized aspirations, rising with the filmy undulations of incense smoke, being so sensitive to any slight movement in the atmosphere about it. His dance was an interpretation of the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi. He opened his arms wide to embrace all of life and be grateful for it; he prostrated himself on the earth and raised his arms to heaven.

Friends also lean on symbols. Phoenix Friends Meeting built its room for worship with an open glass wall facing Squaw Peak Mountain, with the path winding up its steep and rocky sides. We hold our dear ones "up to the light."

Yet now our children are learning that there is really no up or down. And light, they are taught, has so many uses: it can break or build, kill or cure, blind or brighten.

"If I say, 'Let only darkness cover me, and the light about me be night,' even the darkness is not dark to Thee; the night is bright as day; for the darkness is as light with Thee." (Psalm 139, verses 11-12)

Will children continue to use the old symbols? Or what new ones will have meaning for them?

God is no longer an old white-haired man in the sky. Who is he? Am I still His child? What am I?

Do symbols lead and direct men to worship God? Or do we have a sense of awareness of our own relatedness to God, and then create symbols to express it?

Perhaps symbols *can* lead us to discover meanings in our lives. If there is no longer any real meaning in a symbol in terms of present knowledge, it may lead to a dead end, emptiness. Why not find a new one, an alive one? The search means an inquiry into the experience of Life, not just *about* Life. It can mean that new patterns in symbols will arise out of the inquirer's knowledge of himself and Life and God.

Maybe the dancers of tomorrow will reach out in all directions instead of up, to symbolize growth toward God. Maybe artists will see enlightenment with new eyes and express it in new and unusual ways.

Martha's final hoarse cry in Albee's play *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* — "*I* am! *I* am!" — was certainly symbolic to me of humility and her potential salvation. Yet many people going to see this harsh, sophisticated play would be moved by it, I think, who would never be moved by my symbolic translation. And they would not be moved by any religious discussion at all. Then, can the theater not be as true a place of spiritual communication between God and man as a Meeting House? Or is it not apt to, since we do not go there anticipating spiritual growth?

Are we prepared to experience with the aid of the artist's fresh symbols? Will we, perhaps, resist them?

"How precious to me are Thy thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! If I would count them, they are more than the sand." (Psalm 139, verses 17-18)

— *KATHRYN BATCHELER*
Phoenix Meeting

FRIENDS BULLETIN
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Virginia B. Harris, Editor

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ADDRESS CHANGES: Please notify the Bulletin four weeks in advance of your new address, so that you will continue to receive it promptly.

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ALL CORRESPONDENCE should be sent to the above address.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Several items are of utmost interest in the November-December issue, and I am going to send the *Bulletin* to Philadelphia, my own Yearly Meeting, and say I hope they will emulate your format and style. Thanks to you . . . and to Pacific (which has been one of my favorite Yearly Meetings since I met with it in 1937!).

Helen Blyn ("To Care, To Listen") gave us some excellent counsel, and I'm sure she has her finger on the problem of the emotional speaker. I agree with her view. Or almost, anyway.

Is she now ready to speak to the more pressing, more frequent problem (at least in the Philadelphia area, and I presume in most places) – that of the chronic and habitual and repetitive speaker, who Sunday after Sunday gives us the same medicine in the same 12-minute dosage? I've lived through several of these. I do care, and care a lot, about world government. I care, but not quite so much, about social drinking. I at least partially agree that "we must start with ourselves" in dealing with the world's ills. And so forth. Any one of these would be OK occasionally, but they get threadbare. And it is not enough to say we must love these speakers. We do love them, as well as we can, but I find myself rebelling when worship is taken over as a forum and grindstone, and sometimes feel like simply standing up, saying nothing, until the speaker sitteth down. Nonviolent direct action, would it be?

– *GEORGE C. HARDIN*
1621½ E. Helen Street
Tucson, Arizona 85719

FOR RENT: Santa Cruz area, May-October, two-bedroom furnished modern all-electric country home, fireplace, wonderful view. Calvin Cope, 2200 Pleasant Valley Road, Aptos, California. –Advertisement

NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE

BIRTHS

– On January 26, to BRUCE and SUZANNE BROWN (Sacramento Meeting), a daughter, Ellen.

– On January 4, to BOB and DORENE BARNS (Grass Valley Worship Group), a daughter, Allison.

– In January, to WILLIAM and ANNE ST. GERMAIN (Eastside Meeting), a son, David Roy.

DEATHS

– On January 11, RUTH INGERSOLL BAILY (La Jolla Meeting), wife of JOSHUA BAILY. "Her love of people, her generous nature, her sense of fun, the warmth and happiness she brought, are what her friends remember best." A memorial Meeting was held on January 16.

– On January 24, HERBERT EDWARD HARRIS (San Francisco Meeting), aged 39, husband of VIRGINIA B. HARRIS. "His ardent personality made him a firm Friend. He maintained a long-term concern for peace and world federalism, and was very enthusiastic in his work on the Friends Center garden." A memorial Meeting was held on January 31.

– On December 26, LEO HERZ (La Jolla Meeting), husband of ELKA HERZ. "As suggested in one of the spoken messages (at the memorial Meeting on December 27), a word which aptly described Leo was "twinkle" – there was a twinkle in his eye, a twinkle in his walk, and a twinkling within his conversation."

– On November 20, RUTH RANDALL (Claremont Meeting), aged 79. "She came to Claremont Meeting from Phoenix where she had been particularly active in placement work with Indian children. Wherever she lived, she made herself exceedingly useful in a quiet, loving, unobtrusive way, giving of her time and her means generously, and bringing to every situation a saving humor and a compassionate understanding. Her most absorbing interest recently was in the AFSC prison committee."

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NEWS OF FRIENDS

– HEUNG KI BAIK, of Seoul, Korea Meeting has recently arrived to work and study in Los Angeles, and is living temporarily at the Meeting House.

– ALAN and ELOISE RIPPIN BODINE (Delta Meeting) have returned from two years in Kenya. They and their two young children (both born in Africa) are now living in Tracy, where Alan hopes to teach.

(Continued on page 4)

SERMON ON THE LAST BATTLEFIELD

And the Great Master within him
Looked up
And smiled
And the rivers of lighteing mellowed
Into thawing
Sunbeams – there was movement
And summer – green and flippant – enfolded
Her toga
Around the nascent earth
And laved the lids of the first man
Unto repose
In sweet breathing gardens
And woke him with the kiss of another voice
Melting
Through the loneliness
And ten thousand birds hushed to hear the serpent sound
As Eve
Shared the evil fruit
And Adam – seared by the hot fires of sin –
Was blind to all
But the knowledge of fear
And God – angered – let go of the Devil and turned
To this
Problem of men
And in the black of wicked night the fugitive Devil
Lured fallen man
Into a covenant
And God told Death to destroy the covenant
And Death obeyed

And brother killed brother
And there was disease
And famine
And war

And men struggled from the Devil's covenant
(Blessed art thou, Adonoi)
And man faltered
And there was disease
And famine
And war

And men struggled from the Devil's covenant
(Te Deum laudamus)
And man faltered
And there was famine
And war

And men struggled from the Devil's covenant
(Hallelujah – Amen)
And man faltered
And there was war
The covenant's last link

And ten million birds of man bellowed
And roared with the lipless voice of death
And man's lightnings fused
And blinded men's eyes and hearts
And Adam's race was seared and crushed
And the great Master's earth was scarred

And winter came – bleak and cold –
And cooled the keloid earth
And men searched for manna
And, finding none, looked up
And beheld huge icicles melting into mushroom drops

And men recognized Death's murderous miracle
That explodes into rain
And washes away decaying life-worth
And man struck away the Devil's last chain

And the Great Master within him
Looked up
And smiled

And the rivers of lightning mellowed
Into thawing
Sunbeams – there was Peace on Earth
And summer – green and flippant – enfolded
Her toga
Around the renascent earth
And lulled the passions of man
Unto repose
In Love and Good Will
And woke men's minds with that prophecy's echoes

Melting
Through their hearts
And ten thousand years ceased their groan
As men
Shared with men
And Adam and Eve – thus freed from their flames –

Bowed their heads
And looked down on their children in awe.

– *BERNARD CHALIP*
Berkeley Meeting

TEENAGE FRIENDS ADVENTURE TO MEXICO – Among past participants have been PYM Young Friends from Arizona, California, Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia. Coed camping. "roughing it" – seeking the heart of the country and the hearts of the people. Ken Stevens, R8-3473 California, Modesto, California. –Advertisement

– ANN BROWDER (University Meeting) is now director of a hospital in Ethiopia.

– FRED ETCGEVERRT (Santa Monica Meeting) has begun a three-year Federal prison term for refusing to register for the draft. The sentence was pronounced about two years ago, and the intervening time has been taken up with appeals, which have gone to the Supreme Court.

– GERALD FAIRCHILD (Davis Meeting) has accepted a two-year assignment with the AFSC Community Development program in Mexico. A doctor of veterinary medicine, he will work with the villagers of San Damian, Tlaxcala, in improving the health and productivity of their livestock.

– MELODY JAMES (Eastside Meeting) has been accepted by the Peace Corps, and will begin training this spring. Tentative plans are for a teaching position in the Philippines.

– ISAIAH MEYER (Sacramento Meeting) has recently been named assistant to the Director of Bay Area Transportation Study, in which post he will help formulate a comprehensive transportation plan for the nine-county Bay Area.

– DIANE PAGET (Orange Grove Meeting) is now with AFSC's VISA program in Guatemala.

– FRANCIS SABWA, a Friend from Kenya, will graduate from California State College (Hayward) in March. He has received academic honors and has supported himself by part-time work, plus contributions from Friends in Berkeley Meeting and elsewhere. He would like to stay in the U.S. to do graduate work. Friends wishing to contribute to his expenses to enable him to do so may send gifts to FRANCES THOMAS, 962 Ordway Street, Albany 6, California.

– ELIZABETH SKELHORNE (Vancouver Meeting) has returned from a trip to Scotland, and is now staying in Seattle with her brother, Charles Coe (University Meeting).

– DELTA YOUNG FRIENDS. Delta Meeting writes about several of its young adult members: Both DAVE RIDDLES and PAT STEVENS have asked for classification as conscientious objectors this year. Dave is attending University of the Pacific; Pat is at Earlham. RON RAITT is also at Earlham. CHRIS STEVENS is in her last year at Kaiser Nursing School in Oakland.

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AMONG THE MEETINGS

– DAVIS MEETING is now held in a new place: the basement library of Central School, 3rd and B Streets, Davis. Time is still 10:45 a.m. Sundays.

– DELTA MEETING, with seven new members now living in Stockton, has been holding weekly Meetings for Worship on the U. of P. campus, in addition to attending the semi-monthly Meetings in Modesto.

– SALT LAKE CITY. The correct address for June Viavant, correspondent for this Worship Group, is 676 S. 12th East, Salt Lake City 2, Utah. (It was incorrectly listed in the November-December Bulletin.)

– SAN FERNANDO and SANTA MONICA MEETINGS are planning a joint party on February 26, with pot-luck supper, games, square and folk-dancing.

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YOUNG FRIENDS NEWS

The Junior Yearly Meeting officers, feeling that Young Friends have much talent in writing prose and poetry, would like to collect same in a booklet to be made available at the 1965 Yearly Meeting. Purpose would be to increase communication among young Friends and between them and adults. Please send any contributions to SUE HOGENAUER, 319 NE 170th Street, Seattle, Washington 98155.

JOYCE VICTOR, Young Friends Clerk, will be in India with her family from March 1 to June 31. All Young Friends correspondence during that time should be sent to DAVE DART, 421 W. 8th Street, Claremont, California.

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COMING EVENTS

– JUNIOR HIGH SUMMER EXPEDITION. For the fifth time, Pacific Ackworth Friends School will sponsor a summer "traveling school" for junior high students, led by John Way. From July 12 to August 15, 1965, students will attend part of a Family Camp at Camp Sierra, go on to Argenta, B. C. for a week, and visit many points of interest in the Northwest, ending up at Pacific Yearly Meeting in the San Francisco Bay Area. Total cost will be approximately $180. For further information, write John Way, 6210 Temple City Boulevard, Temple City, California.

– PACIFIC SOUTHWEST FRIENDS FELLOWSHIP will be held at Pilgrim Pines, Yucaipa, California on February 27-28. Registrar is Esther Dodson, 606 E. Philadelphia, Whittier, California. The evening panel will be on the theme, "Friends Look at the Arts."

– A TEENAGE FRIENDS ADVENTURE TO MEXICO will again be led by Ken Stevens from about June 18 to July 22, 1965. As in previous adventures, the emphasis will be on building understanding of people through work, worship, discussion, recreation, study. Membership or interest in the Society of Friends is desirable. Cost will be $355 from Modesto to Modesto. Further details may be obtained from Ken Stevens, 8-3473 California Avenue, Modesto, Calif. 95351.

– YOUNG FRIENDS OF NORTH AMERICA will hold their biennial conference August 28 - September 4, 1965 at Oakwood Park, Syracuse, Indiana. The theme will be: "What Doth the Lord Require of Thee?" and speakers will be Mildred Binns Young and Vincent Harding. John Reynolds, Box 337, Pyle Center, Wilmington College, Wilmington, Ohio 45177, is Publicity Coordinator.

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